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Henry Hastings Hall to W S Hall, 13 September 1859

Woongong

Sept 13th 1859

My very dear brother,

I have received yours of Aug 10th and I believe all you have previously written. I shall continue to write you regularly until all these affairs are all settled as I know you must consider them of vital import. Somehow I feel glad you are back at old Bendigo. Dick Chipper drives the Sound mail and consequently takes the letters. I have had a long job pruning and have not done tying yet, we expect 600 gals of wine next season, our garden is very late. Writing so regularly I may make repetitions, if so pardon me. I have had a letter from T Hester requesting me to pay Mrs Knight £10 I shall do it, but I wish I had some understanding with Tom, do you think it worth asking him to knock something off, under the circumstances, of course in law he has no claim on me. Remember if I stop here and you come up I shall require you to perform a few commissions for me in M and perhaps to bring me a wife, but more of this anon. Poor T Peel is in the insolvent court and committed to jail on suspicion of perjury. He gammoned mad & for some time was in the hospital but the Doctors were too knowing for him. I cautioned him earnestly previous to meeting his creditors to divulge everything & if he had done so people were inclined to deal very leniently — but since his insolvency so many things have oozed out detrimental to his character that people only wonder he was not lagged long ago. I visited him twice in the hospital and in a letter to him earnestly advised him, if possible, to clear up the damning doubts clinging to him. Among other things he has been selling cattle continually belonging to other people & probably has had some of ours. Since his troubles his sister Dora was on a visit here, she is nicely educated and very ladylike but I fear has too much of the Peel blood in her veins, she has gone to Mandurah. We cannot yet get the cattle from the Blackwood I shall be heartily glad when this business is all settled. I am glad you are fortunate in getting work but I fear it is very hard but never mind old chap if I get you here I'll give you an easy billet. If you come up I think you and I must farm this place, I don't think we should agree long with Ander, of course if he has to move I'd be very willing to lend

him a helping hand, there are plenty of opportunities to take farms — & I don't see because he happens to be married he should usurp my place, besides I reckon he & Frank have done as little *for the place* as they possibly could only fancy the trellis was up before our Mother died, the cross battens were split the summer before last but they are only now going on, consequently *even* the vines planted before you left have been year after year trailing on the ground to *their* and *other's* loss. This will be the first season that the much boasted trellis will have a vine over it. They had 40 gals of wine last season whereas it ought to have been 400 or 500 gals. Tom Peel's liabilities including a mortgage of £1300 amounts to £3000. The sale of household property comes off on Friday next. I will write to J Turner next mail his folk are all well. Now for a glance at your letter. I requested R Hester some time back to make out a "Run" for me on the Blackwood but by the new Land regulations a Squat will be held on very slight tenure, 10/- per acre is now the price of land, but not less than 40 acres. There have been so few cattle on Woongong lately that the run is recruiting very fast Ander has only 4 or 5 cows his working bullocks and very few young things. They have ascertained now beyond a doubt that the cattle to be kept healthy only want a change on to the coast for a short time. The farmers now get 2/4 lb for butter. I think if I sold this place I could bring down from 400£ to 500£. What I told you about Frank was I believe the fault of the men but G Leake said it looked bad following on the heels of an affair about a pony F sold belonging to Yelverton, and which was never thoroughly cleared up G said F was very near getting into trouble about it. Wellard was so annoyed at his cattle being driven from Hymus's old place to the Blackwood the [*sic*] he would have made himself very unpleasant had I not taken up the matter. You could do no particular good by coming up at present except I should have been very glad of your sage counsel on many perplexing points. I am very glad you have seen my letters to Sarah. It is useless to name the old debt to the Gov^t I see by correspondence my father had tried and failed. However they will take the loan without interest. I have been offered £130 for the two Fremantle allotments. I have written Sarah by this mail and should like you to see the letter our old servant Sarah Puckering is married at last she threw herself and 5 children into the arms of the happy man! I should like you to come up by & bye even if we do not remain here, but there is no occasion for you to think of coming for work at present, as with good labourers at £12 per ann a man with good management ought not to be obliged to

work himself at least not as a laborer, *a la Victoria*. I have not yet seen our sisters. If any of you are writing to Fred H I wish Tom to know I will answer his next mail. With our united love to you all particularly mine to old Jim

believe me

Your ever affect bro:

H H Hall